

P-407, 421/CP-89-105 ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak
Norma McKanna

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for
Extended Area Service From the
Nickerson Exchange to the Askov,
Carlton, and Moose Lake
Exchanges

ISSUE DATE: March 4, 1992

DOCKET NO. P-407, 421/CP-89-105

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On February 21, 1989, customers within the Nickerson exchange filed a petition requesting that the Commission authorize extended area service (EAS) to the Askov, Carlton, and Moose Lake exchanges.

On April 27, 1990, the Minnesota legislature enacted legislation regulating the installation of extended area service (EAS) in Minnesota. The legislation specifies the circumstances under which the Commission will require extended area service (EAS). Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1990).

On July 5, 1990, the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING TRAFFIC STUDIES, COST STUDIES, AND PROPOSED RATES. In this Order, the Commission directed the submission of updated traffic studies for the Nickerson to Askov and Nickerson to Carlton routes.

On September 17, 1991, the Commission issued its ORDER FINDING TWO ROUTES INELIGIBLE AND REQUIRING REVISED COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES FOR A THIRD. In this Order, the Commission required GTE of Minnesota, Inc. (GTE) and U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC) to file their revised cost studies and proposed rates within 90 days of the Order and directed the Department to file its report and recommendations regarding the companies' filings within an additional 60 days.

On December 13 and December 16, 1991, respectively, USWC and GTE filed their revised cost studies and proposed rates.

On February 13, 1992, the Department requested a two week extension in filing its report and recommendations.

On February 25, 1992, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Pursuant to the Commission's September 17, 1991 Order in this matter, the Department's report and recommendations regarding the companies' revised cost studies and proposed rates were due February 16, 1992. In support of its request for additional time to file this report and recommendation the Department's February 13, 1992 filing stated that it had been unable to prepare its report because USWC had not responded to certain information requests.

Just prior to the hearing in this matter, however, USWC provided the Department with the requested information. Accordingly, the Commission need not direct USWC to comply with the Department's information requests but will simply grant the Department's request for additional time to review USWC's recently submitted material and prepare its report. The Department will be required to file its report and recommendations within two weeks (14 days) of this Order.

ORDER

1. The request of the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) for additional time to file its report and recommendations regarding the revised cost studies and proposed rates filed in this matter will be granted. The Department shall file its report and recommendations within 14 days of the date of this Order.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)